



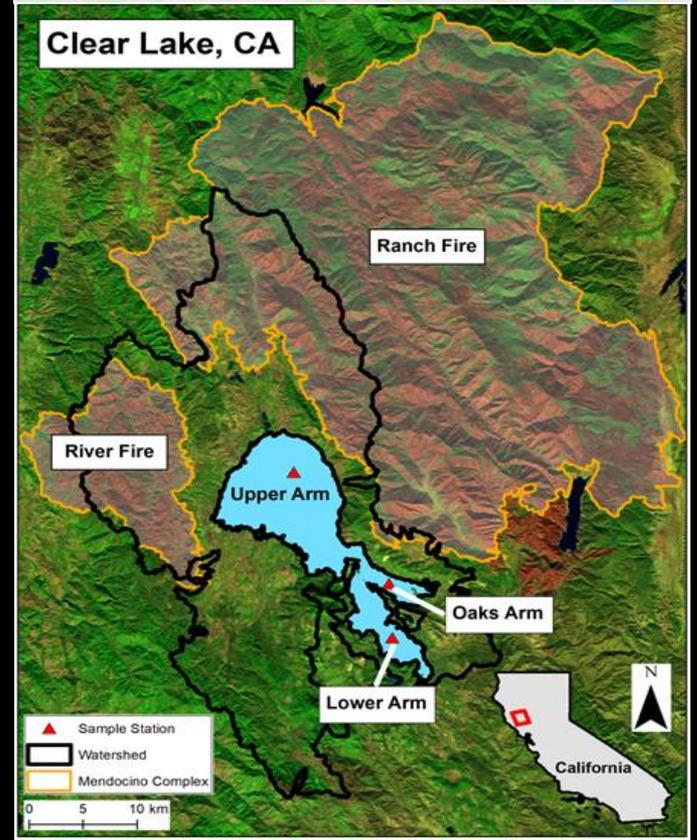
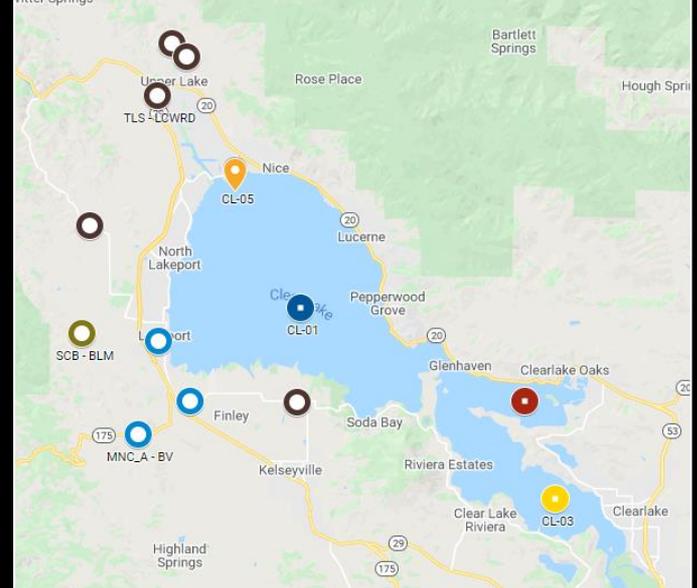
# Clear Lake LAKE WQ Monitoring \$\$ Updates

Angela De Palma-Dow  
*Program Coordinator*  
County of Lake Water Resources



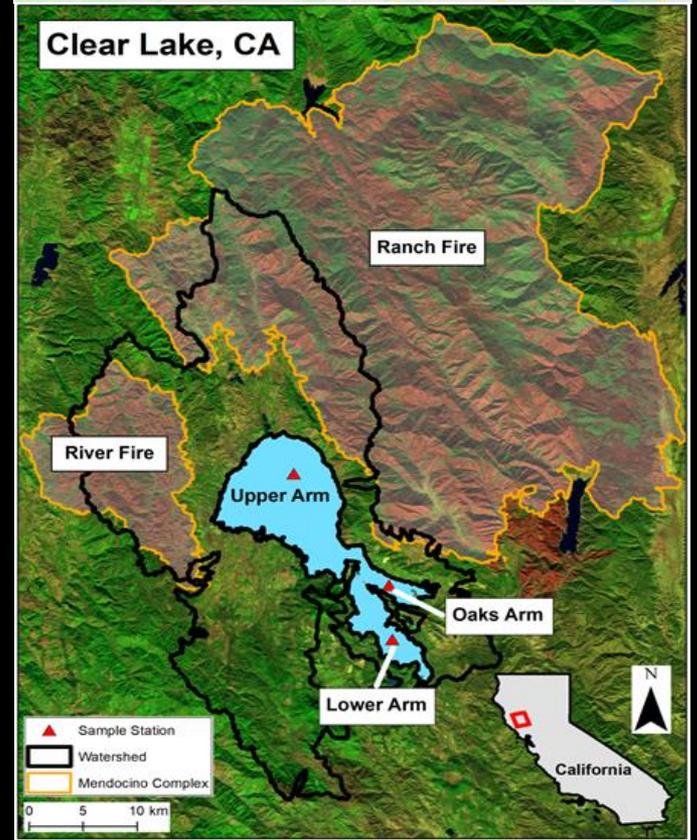
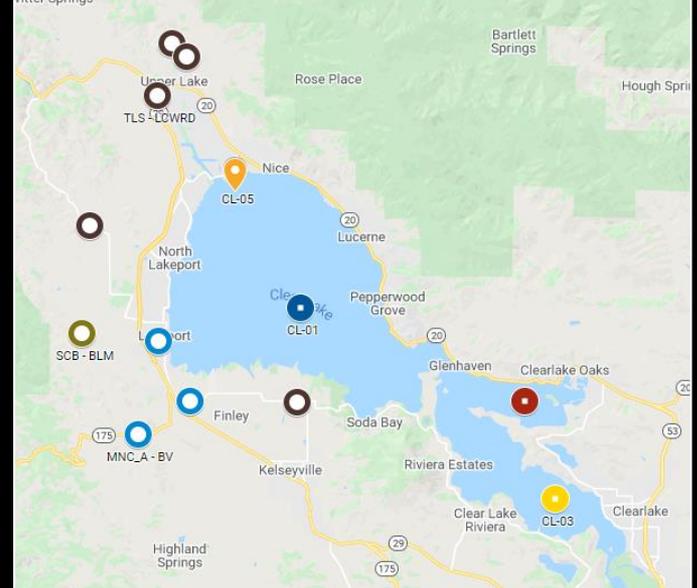
# Clear Lake WQ Monitoring Activities

- Five Programs & Lead Agencies
  - Ambient Lake WQ - CDWR & County
  - TMDL / impaired Water Body Chl-A – CRWQCB & County
  - Quagga Mussel Monitoring – Veliger Tows & Select WQ – CDFW & County
  - Nutrient Sediment Core Sampling – County & UC Davis



# Clear Lake WQ Monitoring Activities

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  - Ambient Lake WQ - ~~CDWR~~ & County
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  - Nutrient Sediment Core Sampling – County & **UC Davis**



Parameter  
List DWR  
Clear Lake  
WQ  
Ambient  
Sampling  
10x year

DWR Lake Analysis	Current EPA Method - Active	DWR Lake Analysis	Current EPA Method - Active
ALKALINITY-Total	Std Method 2320 B (Filtered)	MANGANESE-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)
ALUMINUM-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	MANGANESE-Total	EPA 1638 (T)
ALUMINUM-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	MERCURY-Total	EPA 1631 E (T)
AMMONIA-Dissolved	EPA 350.1	NICKEL-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)
AMMONIA-Total	EPA 350.1 (Total)	NICKEL-Total	EPA 1638 (T)
ARSENIC-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	NITRATE + NITRITE-Dissolved	Std Method 4500-NO3-F (28Day)
ARSENIC-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	NITRATE AS N-Dissolved	
BORON-Dissolved	EPA 200.7 (D)	NITRATE-Dissolved	EPA 300.0 28d Hold
CADMIUM-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	NITROGEN KJELDAHL-Total	EPA 351.2
CADMIUM-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	NITROGEN KJELDAHL-Soluble	
CALCIUM-Dissolved	EPA 200.7 (D)	NITROGEN ORGANIC-Dissolved	EPA 351.2/EPA 350.1 (Dissolved)
CALCIUM-Dissolved		NITROGEN ORGANIC-Total	EPA 350.1/EPA 351.2 (Calc)
CALCIUM-Total	EPA 200.7 (T)	NITROGEN-Dissolved (NO2, NO3, TKN & CALC)	
CHLORIDE-Dissolved	EPA 300.0 28d Hold	NO2+NO3 as N-Dissolved	
CHROMIUM-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	OROTH-PHOSPHATE-Dissolved	EPA 365.1 (DWR Modified)
CHROMIUM-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	PHOSPHORUS-Total	EPA 365.4
CONDUCTANCE Specific-Field	EPA 120.1 (Field)	POTASSIUM-Dissolved	EPA 200.7 (D)
COPPER-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	SELENIUM-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)
COPPER-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	SELENIUM-Total	EPA 1638 (T)
HARDNESS-Dissolved	Std Method 2340 B (D)	SILVER-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)
HARDNESS-Total	Std Method 2340 B (T)	SILVER-Total	EPA 1638 (T)
IRON-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	SODIUM-Dissolved	EPA 200.7 (D)
IRON-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	SOLIDS DISSOLVED-Total	Std Method 2540 C
LEAD-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)	SOLIDS SUSPENDED -Total	EPA 160.2
LEAD-Total	EPA 1638 (T)	SULFATE-Dissolved	EPA 300.0 28d Hold
MAGNESIUM-Dissolved	EPA 200.7 (D)	ZINC-Dissolved	EPA 1638 (D)
MAGNESIUM-Total	EPA 200.7 (T)	ZINC-Total	EPA 1638 (T)



# Ambient Lake WQ ~2020

Program Costs  
between

~\$100,000  
-Top, Bottom  
-4 sites  
-10x year

CDWR scheme  
~ \$600,000  
-4 sites  
-all depths  
-10x year

Lab Analysis Clear Lake WQ Parameter Estimates - as per CDWR list current 2019-2020				
<i>Baseline (for one single site, either CL-01, CL03, CL-04, CL-05)</i>				
	Factor	Alpha (Ukiah)	CalTest (Napa)	TERC (UC Davis)
ESTIMATE 1 site (surface only):	1x	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 1,444.50	\$2,240
ESTIMATE 1 site (surface & Bottom):	x2	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 2,889.00	\$ 4,479.80
ESTIMATE 1 site (every 3 m at each site):	x13	\$ 18,070.00	\$ 18,778.50	\$ 29,118.70
<i>Surface Only (0.5m)</i>				
ESTIMATE for 3 sites (surface only):	x1	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 4,333.50	\$4,146
ESTIMATE for 4 sites (surface only):	x1	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 5,778.00	\$5,099
ESTIMATE for 3 sites x 10 months (surface only) :	x1	\$ 41,700.00	\$ 43,335.00	\$41,457
ESTIMATE for 4 sites x 10 months (surface only):	x1	\$ 55,600.00	\$ 57,780.00	\$50,986
<i>Surface and Bottom (0.5 m &amp; either 12m, 9m, 6m depending on arm being sampled)</i>				
ESTIMATE for 3 sites (surface and bottom):	x2	\$ 8,340.00	\$ 8,667.00	\$ 8,291.40
ESTIMATE for 4 sites (surface and bottom):	x2	\$ 11,120.00	\$ 11,556.00	\$ 10,197.20
ESTIMATE for 3 sites x 10 months (surface and bottom):	x2	\$ 83,400.00	\$ 86,670.00	\$ 82,914.00
ESTIMATE for 4 sites x 10 months (surface and bottom):	x2	\$111,200.00	\$115,560.00	\$ 101,972.00
<i>Every 3 m (standard for DWR, includes 13 samples for each one event)</i>				
ESTIMATE for 3 sites (every 3m):	x12	\$ 50,040.00	\$ 52,002.00	\$ 49,748.40
ESTIMATE for 4 sites (every 3m):	x13	\$ 72,280.00	\$ 75,114.00	\$ 66,281.80
ESTIMATE for 3 sites x 10 months (every 3m):	x12	\$500,400.00	\$520,020.00	\$ 497,484.00
ESTIMATE for 4 sites x 10 months (every 3m):	x13	\$722,800.00	\$751,140.00	\$ 662,818.00
<i>*Lake County has already committed to funding this parameter - Chl-a</i>				
Chl-a estimates surface x 10x:			\$ 9,000.00	\$6,240
Chl-a estimates surface & bottom 10x:			\$ 18,000.00	\$12,480
Add \$1000 +/- to these total #s for replicates, duplicates, shipping, packing, and handling				
Lake Samples are collected 1x a month for 10 months of the year				
Samples are collected from 4 sites (started in 2018 post fire)				
Ideal schema would maintain 4 sites for 10 months with ALL parameters				
THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE LABOR COST, WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR SAMPLE PREP / STAFF TIME / AND FILTERED / DISSOLVED SPECIES				



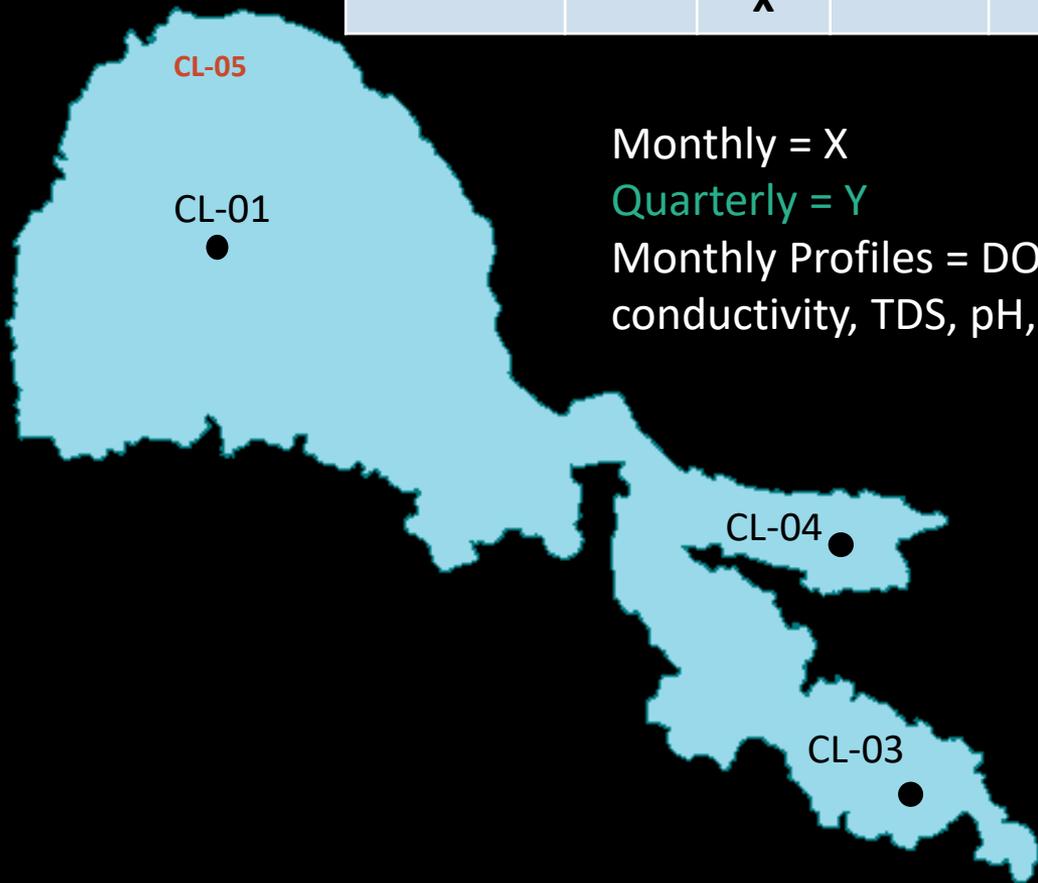
# WRD Trial Clear Lake Sampling Scheme – Dec 2020

- Costs annual ~\$100,000
- Funding Sources Vary
- Internal County Cannabis Tax Grant (Clear Lake Water Quality ~ \$15,000)
- US EPA NEIEN Networking Grant (HPUL)
- General WRD Budget (Lakebed Management Fees)
- AmeriCorps Civic Spark Fellowship Program (Labor and analysis help)



# Ambient Lake WQ ~2021

Depth	Chl-a	TP / TN	Ortho-P	TSS	Turbidity	Metals +Fe, Al, Ca	Hardness, Alkalinity	Water Color
0.15 m	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y	X
3m	X							
Middle								
<1m Bottom	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y	X
Sediment		X						



Monthly = X  
 Quarterly = Y  
 Monthly Profiles = DO, temp,  
 conductivity, TDS, pH, Secchi





# What do we notice about this sampling scheme?

- No Dissolved nutrients
  - Just SRP / Ortho phosphate
- Not all depths
- Trying for sampling every month
  - Data gaps from fire events
  - Data gaps drought /low water levels
- Does all the data mean something?
- *Is there meaningful data we are not collecting?*
  - TOC? DOC? Ammonia / NH<sub>4</sub>?
  - Biota: Phyto / Zoops?



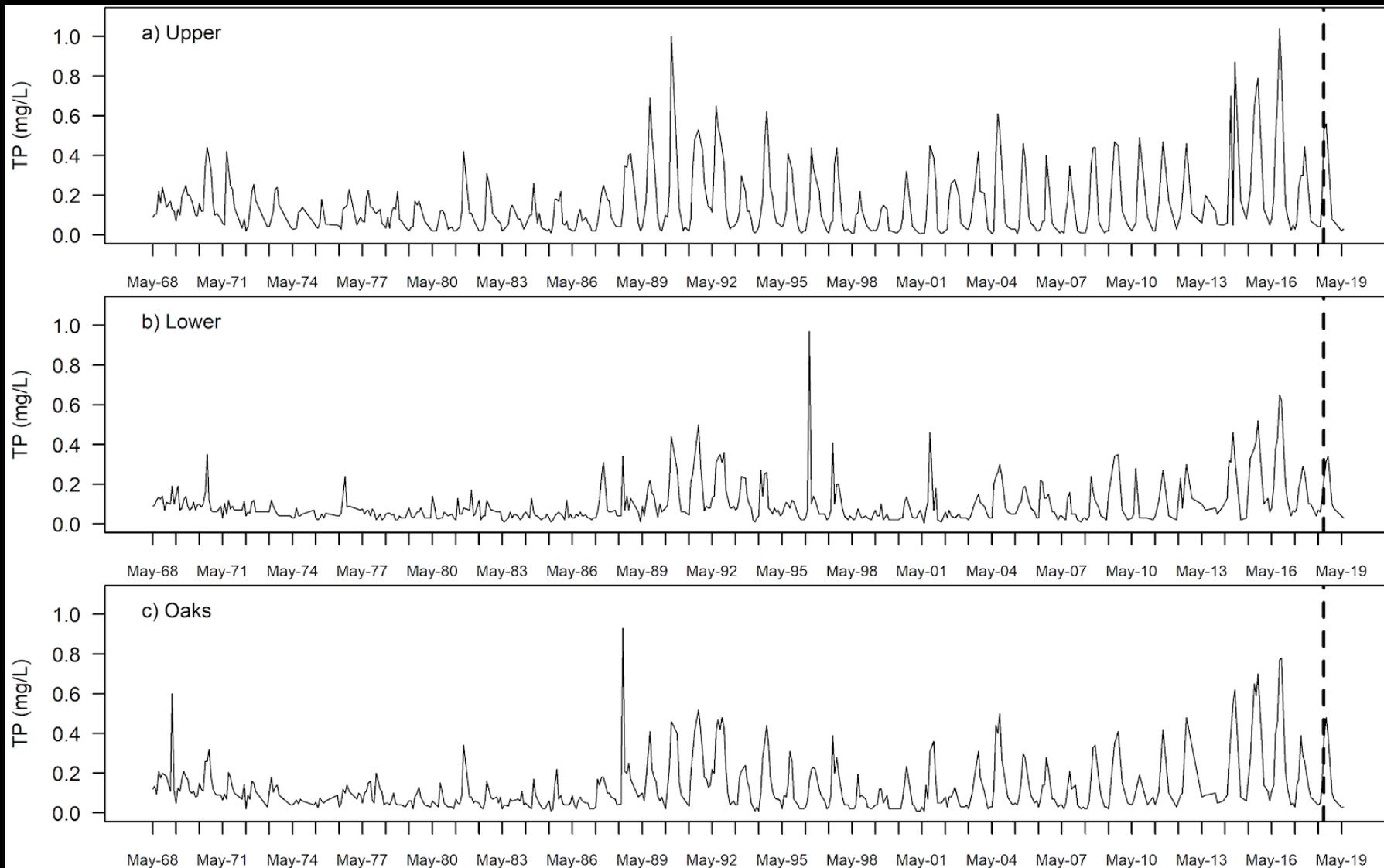
# Why do we need this data?



Not a deep data dive, just example of the type of info we have available now to help us make management decisions!

# Ambient Lake WQ ~\$600,000

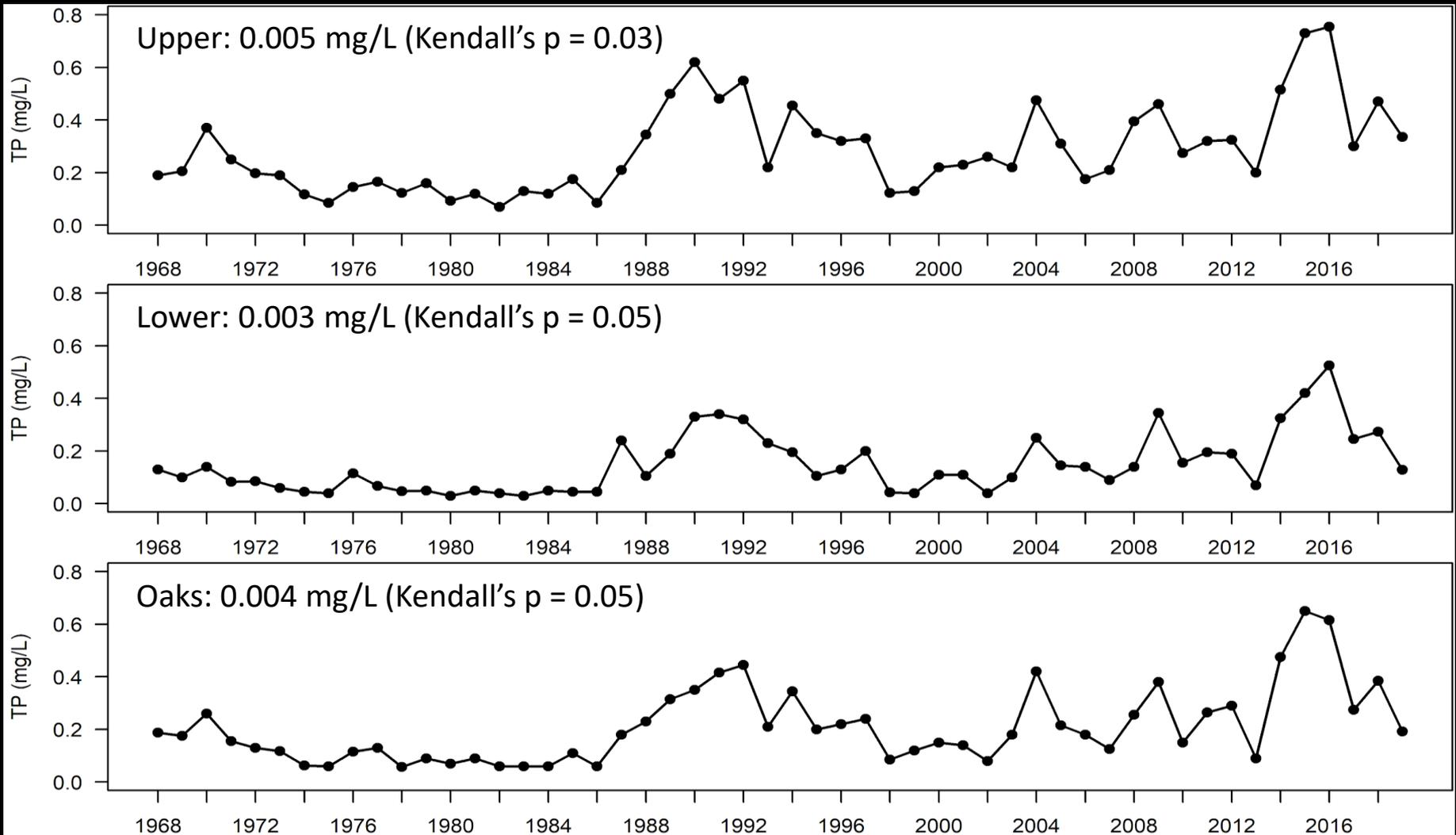
Ex. Long Term Annual TP – Monthly medians (MESSY!)



# Long-term surface TP (July-Oct)

Increasing over time? Yes!

Thiel-Sen slope annual rate of increase (3-5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ )



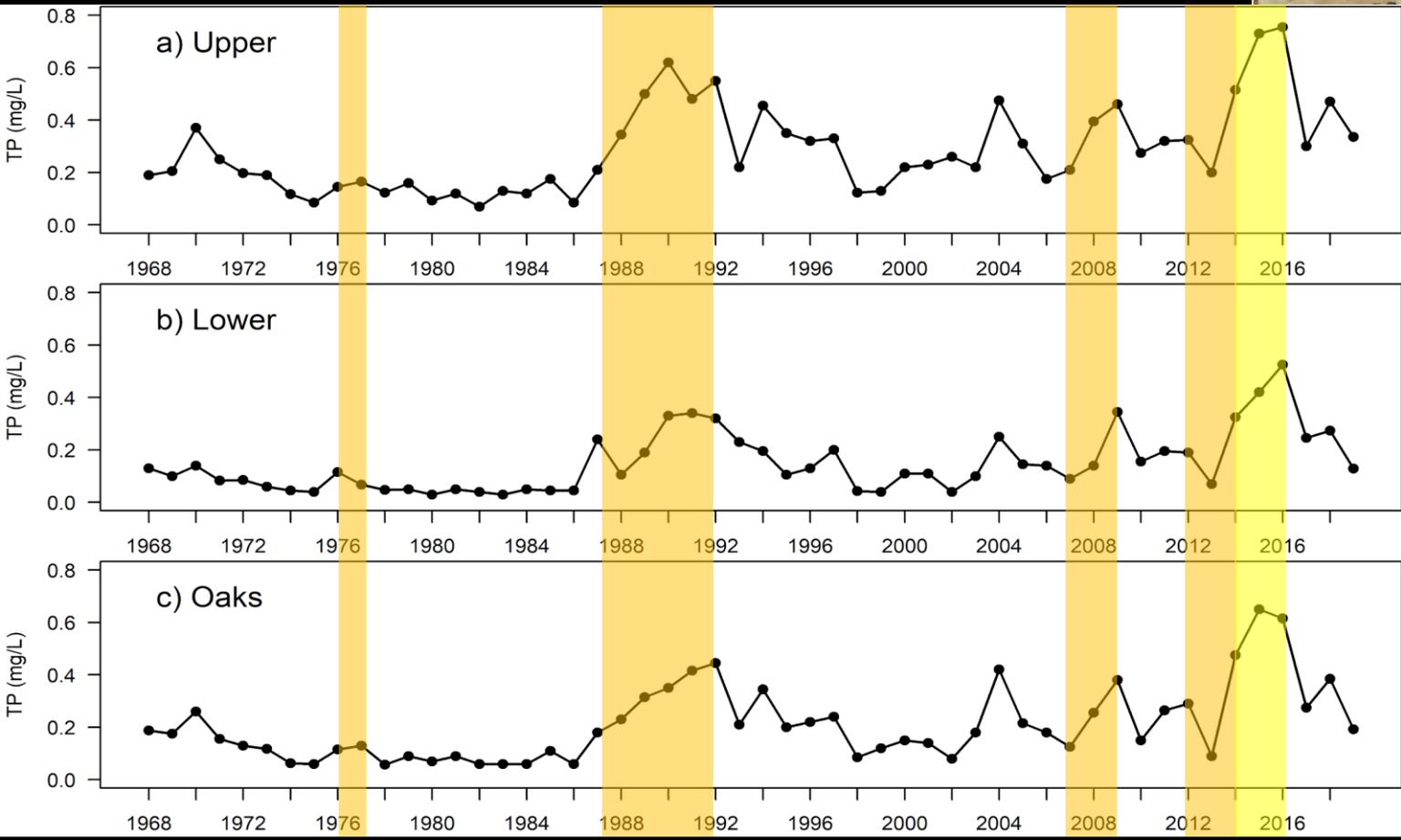
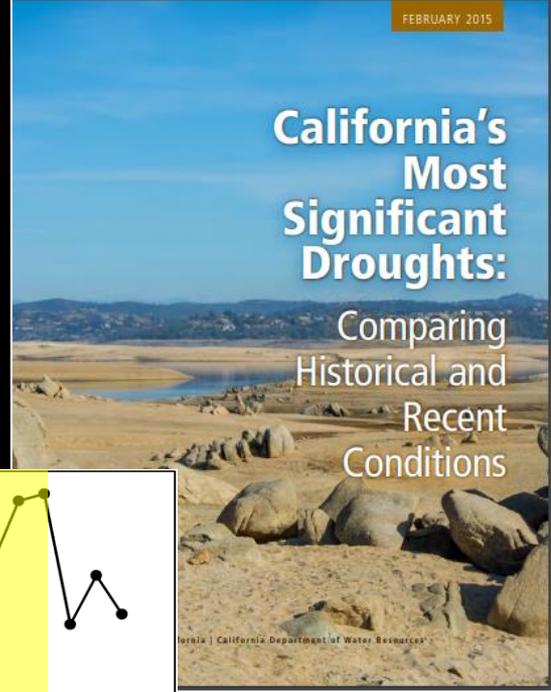
# Long term data needed for accurate management decisions

Example: Drought influence apparent with long term dataset

TP not associated with Wildfire, Precip, but winter max air temp, negative with precip = DROUGHT conditions

## California's Most Significant Droughts:

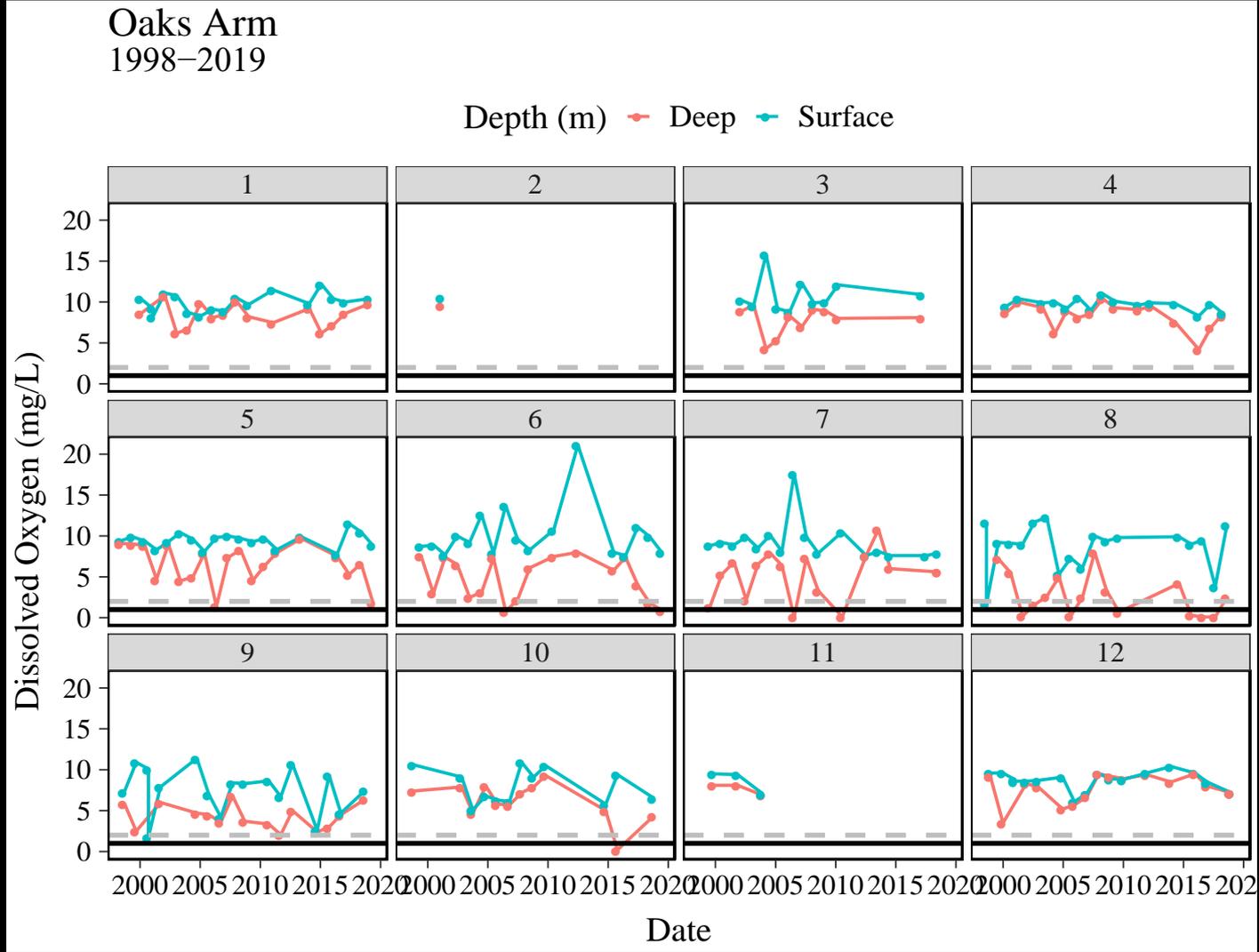
Comparing Historical and Recent Conditions





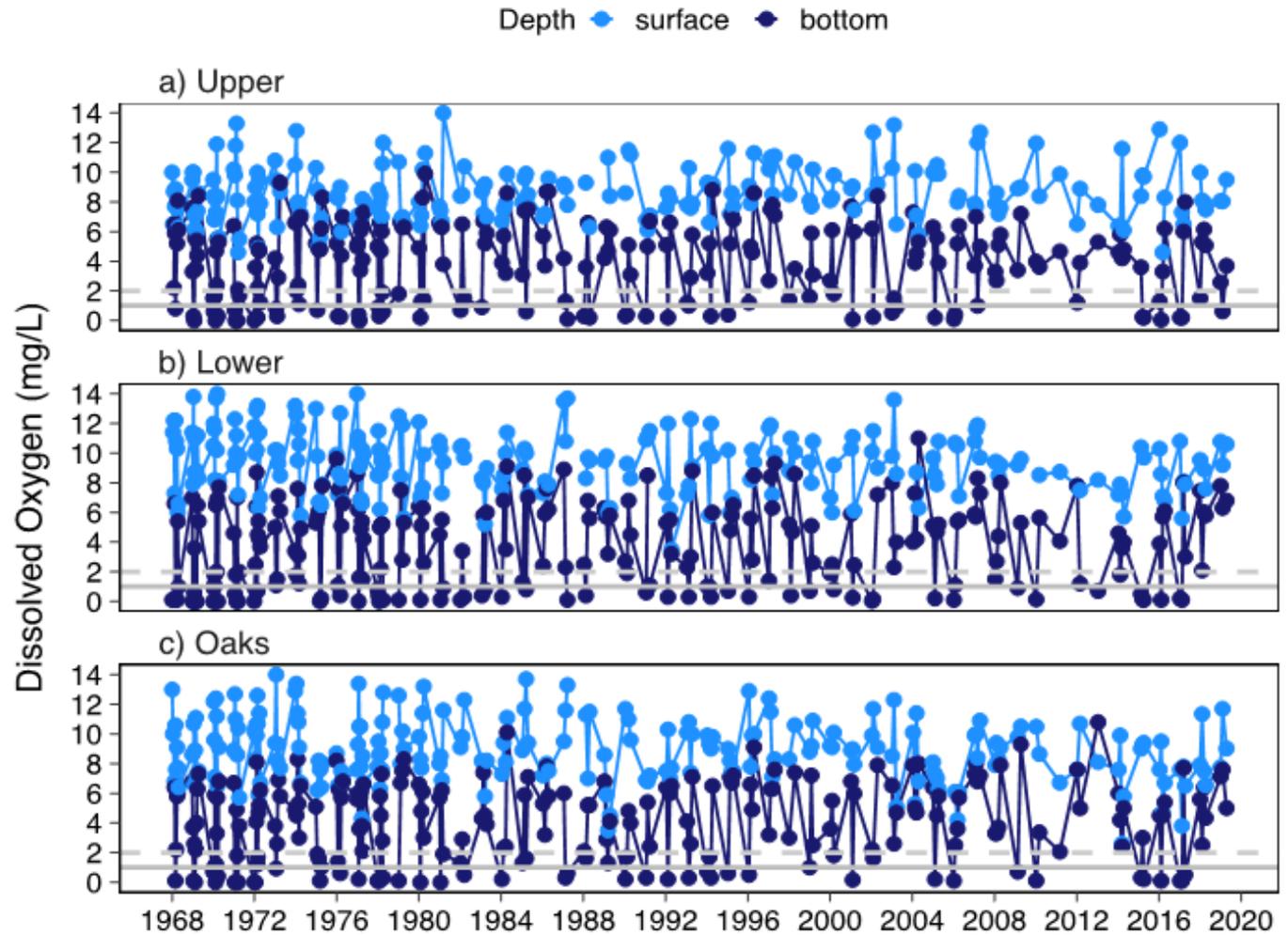
# DO by month – 1998-2019

gray = hypoxia (< 2 mg/L)  
black = anoxia (< 1 mg/L)



# DO over time— Surface and Bottom

gray = hypoxia (< 2 mg/L)  
black = anoxia (< 1 mg/L)  
- Monthly  
- Median



**Figure S8.** Monthly surface and bottom DO for July-October for a) Upper arm, b) Lower Arm, and c) Oaks arm.

## Example: # Days Oaks Arm Anoxic – DO < 1 mg/L

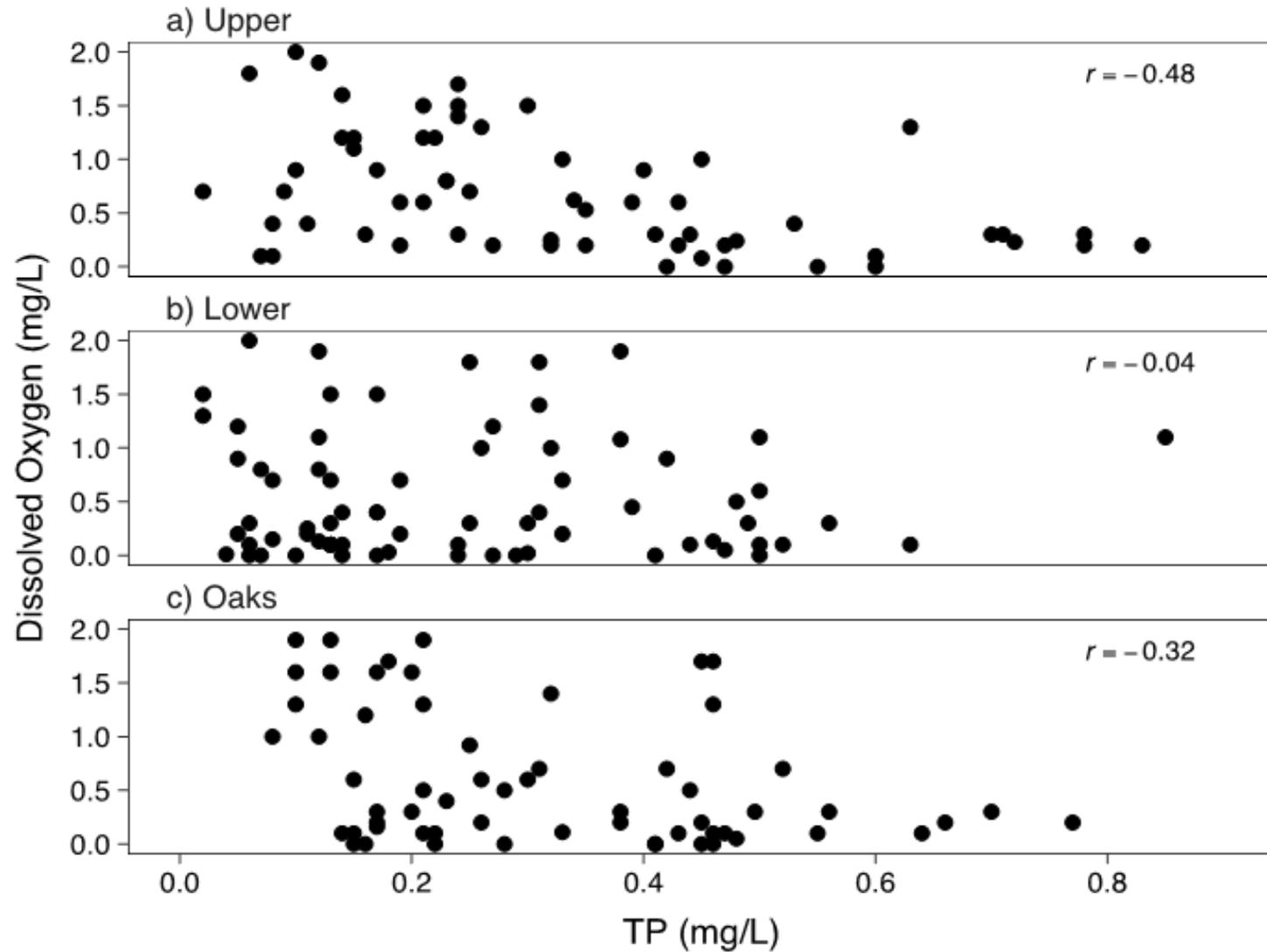
- June: 6
- July: 11
- Aug: 12
- Sep: 5
- Oct: 2



- 1964-1991 – 25 anoxic days, total samples = 633, 4%; deep samples = 309, **8%**
- 1998-2019 – 11 anoxic days, total samples = 320, 3.4%; deep samples = 157, **7%**

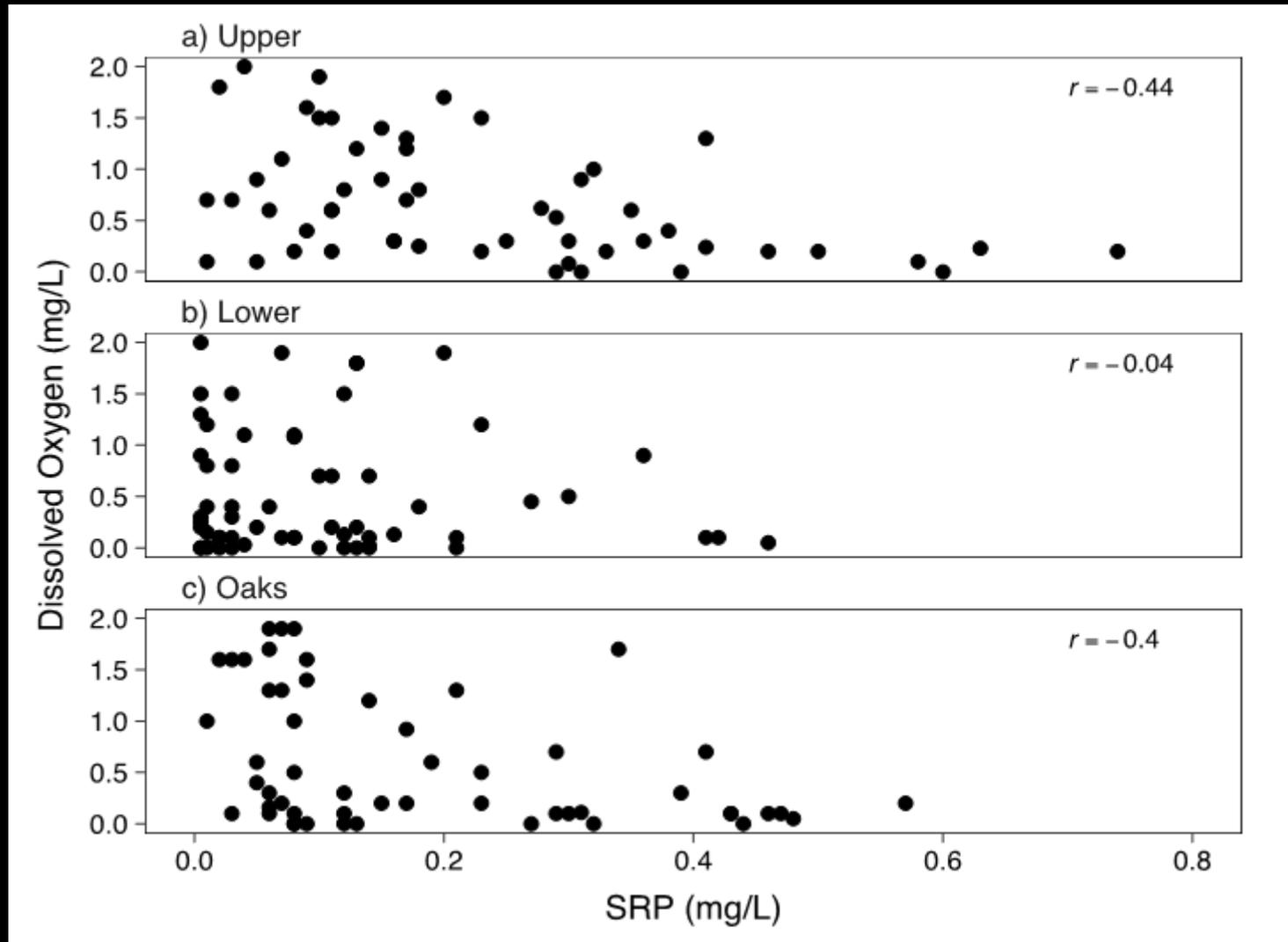
# Look at relationships

July-Oct TP vs hypoxic DO – spearman's correlation



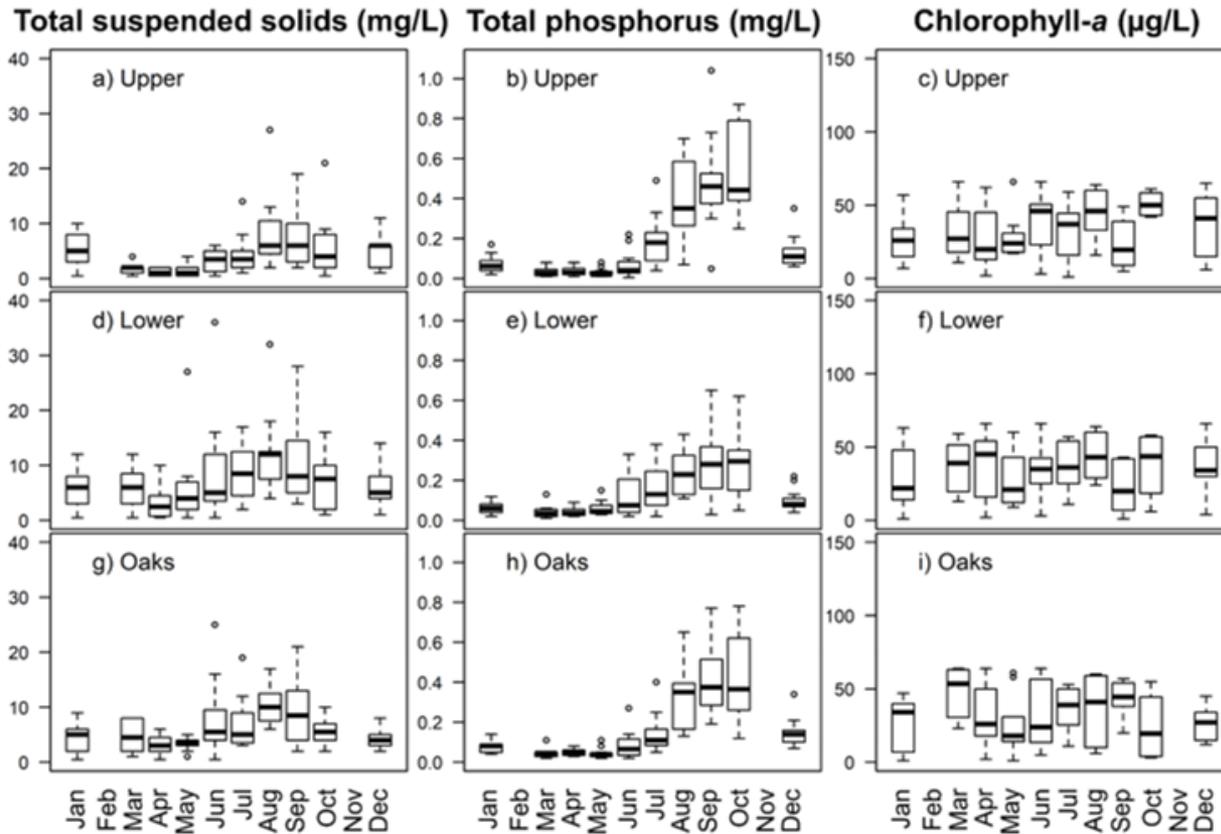
# Look at relationships

July-Oct **SRP** vs hypoxic DO – spearman's correlation



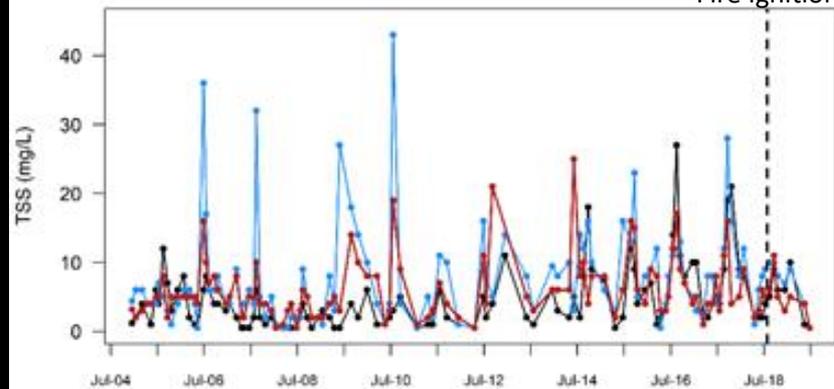
# Specific info for periods of interest

## Nutrient & HABs Blooms Season: June - October

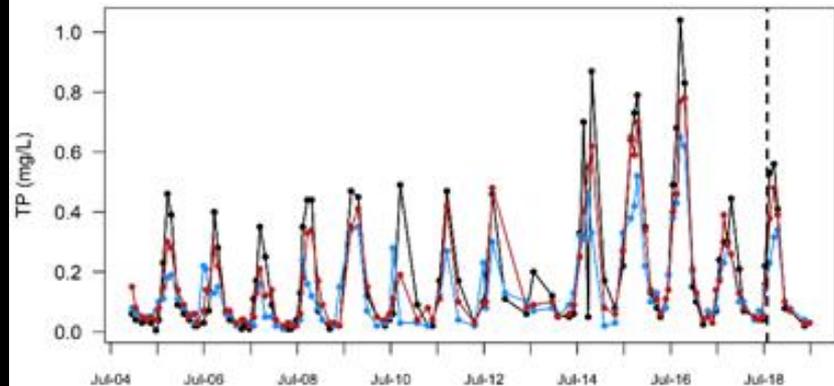


Total Suspended Solids

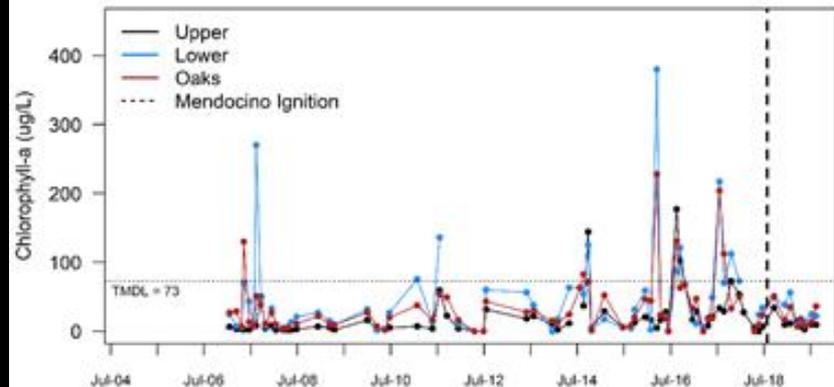
Mendocino  
Fire Ignition



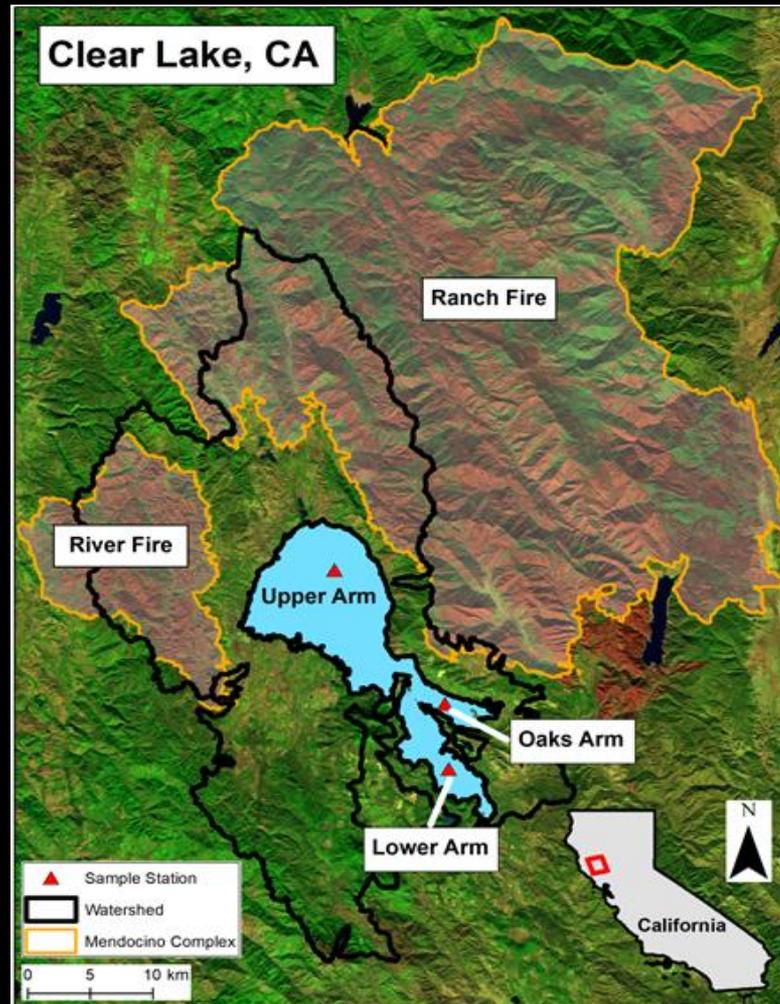
Total Phosphorus



Chlorophyll-a



# Useful for Wildfire Impact Research



# Q/Z Veliger & WQ Monitoring Tows

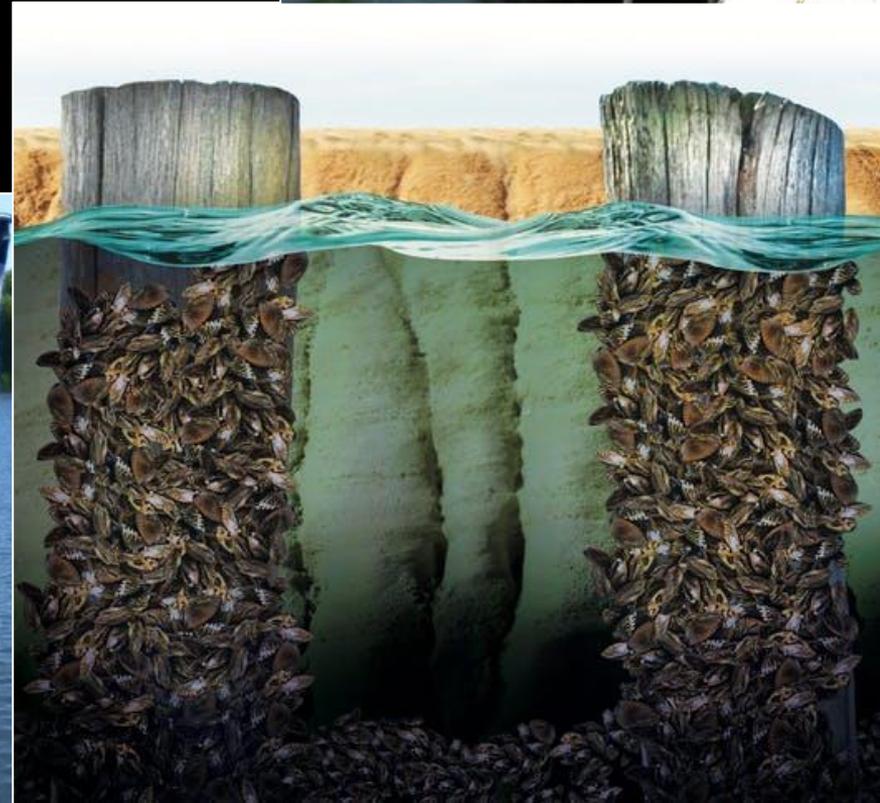
Required now 2-4x Clear Lake, Blue  
Lakes, Pillsbury, Indian Valley

- **\$11,000 Staffing estimates**

- Needed to get grant \$\$



Zebra Mussel veligers



# Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program

- High Ca+ in Clear Lake
- High QZ Grant Priority

Table 1 Average water quality measurements from Clear Lake and Indian Valley Reservoir (2016-2018) and parameter ranges shown to be suitable for the growth and establishment of (Adult) Q/Z mussels. All data is provided by A. Montalvo (CDFW) unless otherwise noted.

Year	Temp (°C)	Conductivity (mS/cm)	pH	D.O. (mg/l)	Total Hardness <sup>1</sup> (mg/L CaCo <sub>3</sub> )	Salinity (ppm)	Total Calcium <sup>1</sup> (mg/L)
<i>Clear Lake</i>							
2016 May	22.3	0.4	8.7	6.6	173.0	0.2	30.0
2016, Nov	16.7	243.0	9.5	3	131.0	0.1	23.0
2017, April	14.4	0.3	8.3	1.2	113.0	0.1	21.0
2017, July	26.0	263.0	10	7.0	123.0	0.1	22.0
2017, Oct	17.4	257.1	9.1	2.9	127.0	0.1	23.0
2018, April	16.0	243.3	8.6	1.6	N/A	0.1	N/A
2018, Oct	18.5	304.9	7.5	6.2	N/A	0.2	N/A
<i>Indian Valley Reservoir</i>							
2016, Dec	10.7	0.3	7.9	10.1	N/A	0.2	N/A
2017, June	22.8	223.4	8.7	6.9	N/A	0.1	N/A
2017, Oct	18.9	222.5	8.4	3.5	N/A	0.1	N/A
2018, Oct	19.9	253.7	8.1	6.3	N/A	0.1	N/A
Preferred Range for Q/Z mussels	6-32 <sup>2</sup>	>22µS/cm <sup>3</sup>	6.5-9.5 <sup>2</sup>	>2-6 <sup>2</sup>	100-420 <sup>2</sup>	0-12 <sup>3</sup>	>12 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by DWR (Surface 0.5 m) Water Data Library <http://wdl.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by Pucherelli et al. 2016 (BLM)

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by Cohen 2005 (prepared for CDWR)



LAKE COUNTY Watershed Protection District

## Lake County Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan



March 2019



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[stopaquatichitchhikers.org](http://stopaquatichitchhikers.org)





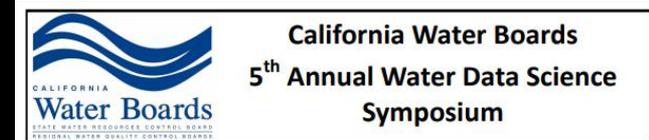
# To Recap County 2021 Annual Costs:

- ~\$100,000 + WQ Ambient Monitoring Trial Scheme
- \$50,000 / year sediment sampling
  - Supported until June 2021 UC Davis / BRC funds
  - Working with UC Davis on sediment Flux paper
- ~\$60,000 year mussel monitoring / WQ monitoring
  - Lakes outside of Clear Lake
  - But important to Lake County Ecology & Economy
- ~\$125,000 Expanding Stream and Urban Storm water Monitoring Networks
  - (11 urban discharge sites, 30 stream sites)

**No general fund, no fee / tax increases!  
Not really sustainable past current grant years!**

# Next Steps: Data Monitoring Prioritization

- Data Analysis!
- AmeriCorps Civic Spark (Liam)
- Combing through DWR dataset
- Like Statistical Modelling
  - What to keep?
  - What to throw out?
  - Variable Importance / model performance
  - Caret Packaging / Machine Learning
- Liam Presenting this research at 2021 Data Water Symposium
  - Tue, Jun 29, 2021 - Wed, Jun 30, 2021



*Partnering with Communities  
for Better Water Outcomes*



#CAWATERDATADIVE

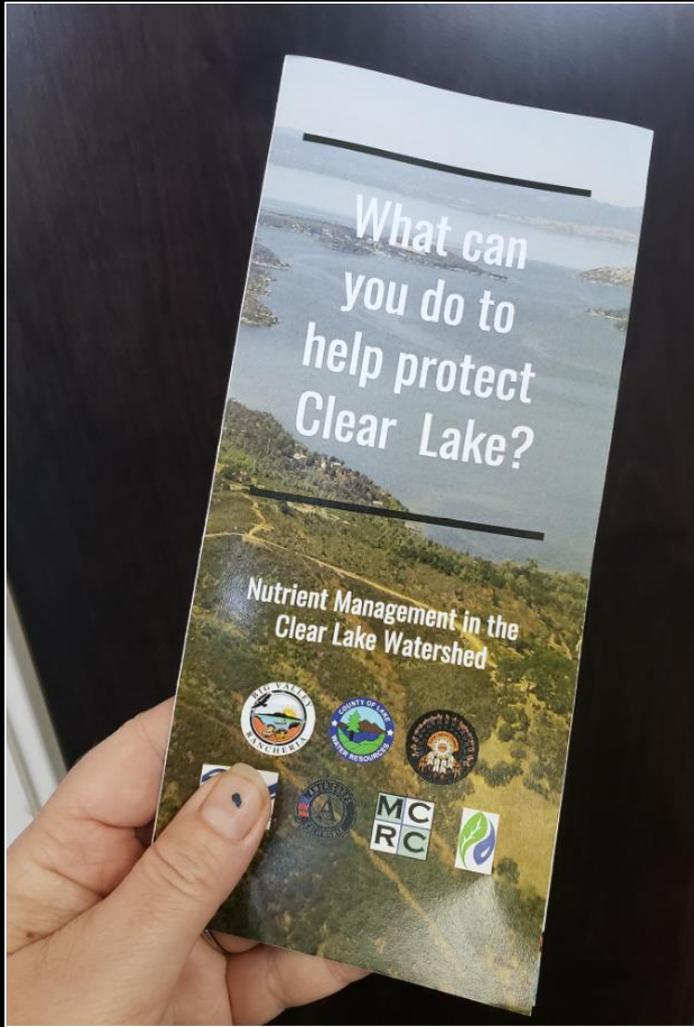
# Update on WQ complete Qs?: [Angela.DePalma-Dow@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:Angela.DePalma-Dow@lakecountyca.gov)

THANK YOU to co-authors & collaborators  
Ian McCullough &  
Jennie Brentrup



# Outreach Updates

## Clear Lake Cyano Task Force Nutrient Brochure



### WHERE CAN YOU REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR POLLUTION?

- City of Lakeport (707) 263-5613 ext. 205
- City of Clearlake (707) 994-8201 (press 0)
- Lake County Code Enforcement (707) 263-2309 or email at compliance@co.lake.ca.us
- Lake County Water Resources Dept. (707) 263-2344
- Sewage spills can be reported to Lake County Environmental Health (707) 263-1164
- Report Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) in Cow Mountain recreation area to Ukiah Field Office (707) 468-4000
- Report hazardous material spills to CalOES at 1-800-852-7550

### WHY IS LIMITING NUTRIENTS IN THE LAKE IMPORTANT?

When ecologically balanced, Clear Lake has enough nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, etc.) for the native plants in its aquatic ecosystem to photosynthesize and grow. The presence of pollutants (toxic chemicals, oils, fecal-colliform bacteria) or excessive amounts of natural or synthetic nutrients disrupts this balance.

High amounts of nutrients cause overgrowth of invasive plants and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), sometimes called harmful algal blooms (HABs), which can be toxic.

### HOW CAN YOU PROTECT THE LAKE WHEN RECREATING?

- Boating in shallow areas agitates nutrient-rich sediment. Reducing boat speed and/or boating activities reduces the amount of sediment released.
- Dredging and shoreline construction activities increase turbidity and erosion in the lake. Follow the Lake County Water Resources Department guidelines for installing silt curtains, turbidity curtains, and fences around all projects occurring in coves, bays, and on the shoreline. These reduce the release of nutrient-rich sediments that sustain algae and cyanobacteria blooms.

### HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE STORM WATER QUALITY?

Rainstorm events create storm water which can mix with pollutants in drains, ditches, gutters, and culverts. This untreated storm water flows directly into creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes and pollutes both drinking and recreational water.

#### Here's how you can help:

- Don't apply fertilizer before windy or rainy weather
- Place all green waste in the green waste bin, in the trash, or in your yard as compost
- Divert roof water to lawns and gardens so that it soaks in the ground instead of into the storm drain
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down
- Plant native species instead. For a list of native plants contact Lake County Resources Conservation District (707) 263-6838
- Keep all pollutants (pesticides, oils, trash) off of streets and slopes and out of gutters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains
- Properly store unused fertilizers and properly dispose of empty containers

### HOW CAN YOU DECREASE NUTRIENT LOADING IF YOU HAVE A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Septic systems are used when connecting to a sanitary sewer system is impossible. They are onsite wastewater treatment systems for individual households.

- Maintain your septic system and have it inspected by a professional every 3-5 years
- Have your septic system pumped out every 3-5 years. Pumping it every 2-5 years is recommended for a 3 bedroom home with a 1,000 gallon tank. Smaller tanks should be pumped more frequently.
- Minimize garbage disposal use
- Avoid planting shrubs near drain fields; their roots clog drain lines
- Spread out laundry machine use throughout the week to avoid overloading the system. Use the appropriate amount of detergent; more is not better.

## What can you do to help protect Clear Lake?

### Nutrient Management in the Clear Lake Watershed



## What factors create excess nutrients in Clear Lake?

<p><b>Off-road vehicle use</b> Off-road vehicle use both disturbs the ground, causing erosion, and stirs up dust, increasing the runoff entering streams, creeks, and Clear Lake.</p>	<p><b>Septic systems</b> Old or malfunctioning septic systems can leak sewage that is high in nitrogen and phosphorus. These are the main elements which promote HABs.</p>	<p><b>Excessive fertilizer use</b> Fertilizer is mostly comprised of nitrogen and phosphorus as nutrients for plants. These can runoff to nearby water bodies.</p>
<p><b>Climate change</b> Changes in climate includes less rain and longer periods of warmer weather. Less rain means a more nutrient-dense Clear Lake and combined with hotter temperatures, promote excessive plant, algae and cyanobacteria growth.</p>	<p><b>In-lake activities</b> In-lake activities like boating too close to shore and shoreline construction can move sediments and nutrients into the water column, where they can feed algae blooms.</p>	<p><b>Wildfires</b> Wildfires burn vegetation allowing slopes to erode nutrient-rich sediments as runoff into streams and creeks</p>

## What do excess nutrients do?

<p><b>Create health hazards</b> Nutrient-rich lake water can promote growth of HABs, or toxic cyanobacteria, which can be a public health hazard to humans, livestock, wildlife, and pets.</p>	<p><b>Endanger culturally important resources</b> Poor water quality in Clear Lake degrades tribal use and worsens the cultural loss in heritage of the area.</p>
<p><b>Dying blooms harm aquatic life</b> After large populations of algae and aquatic plants die, the decaying matter consumes oxygen, leading to fish kills.</p>	<p><b>Reduce recreational opportunities</b> Unightly green or brown water, with dense aquatic plant beds, makes recreation on the lake less enjoyable for everyone. This impacts boating, water-skiing, and swimming prospects for locals and tourists.</p>
<p><b>Pollute water used for drinking</b> Excess sediments, and resulting algae growth, can clog drinking water intake filters. These can be expensive and difficult to treat or filter out, adding extra financial burden to Clear Lake's tribal and disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p><b>Decrease property values and potential tourism</b> Residential properties near lakes with recurring algal blooms have reported losses in real estate values. The local economy is dependent on Clear Lake related tourism, which can be negatively affected by the presence of HABs and/or perception of poor water quality.</p>

# NPDES – Clear Lake Aquatic Plant Management Program

## Include

- Manual
- Chemical Herbicide treatments
- Herbicide monitoring is VERY expensive
- ~\$17,000 / year min
- Cost of permits do not cover this cost

